

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1798**  
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022

**RETAIL AND WHOLESALE INFLATION**

1798. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's own policy to control inflation other than looking towards the RBI for its intervention and to more advanced countries for comparison;
- (b) why retail inflation is soaring well above the RBI's comfort band for six months in a row and wholesale inflation at above 15 per cent; and
- (c) the strategy Government is undertaking to control inflation in the food basket and whether the ban on exports of wheat and sugar is part of this move?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Soaring international commodity prices and pandemic-induced supply-demand imbalances caused a rise in inflation rates worldwide including in India. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has exacerbated the inflationary pressures in crude oil, gas, and metals. Further, the onset of summer heat waves has led to crop damage and a rise in vegetable prices.

Several supply-side measures have been taken by the Government to address inflation. These include *inter alia*, reduction in excise duty by Rs. 8 per litre on petrol and Rs. 6 per litre on diesel on May 21, 2022, reduction in import duties and cess on pulses, rationalization of tariffs and imposition of stock limits on edible oils and oil seeds, maintenance of buffer stock for onion and pulses, the inclusion of soya meal as an essential commodity in the schedule of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and imposition of stock limit on soya meal up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In order to maintain the domestic availability and price stability, the Govt. of India has regulated wheat exports w.e.f. 13.05.2022 and sugar exports w.e.f. 01.06.2022.

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